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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Item 4 of the agenda

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Observations received from Governments

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

Addendum

BYELORUSSIAN SSR

[Original: Russian]
14 January 1965

In its activities in the field of international relations, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic follows unswervingly the principles of peace, equal rights, self-determination of peoples, and respect for the independence and sovereignty of all countries. Governed by these principles, and bearing in mind the determination of the United Nations, as stated in its Charter, "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small", the Byelorussian SSR approves the proposal to designate 1968, the twentieth anniversary of the General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as International Year for Human Rights. That is why the Byelorussian delegation at the General Assembly's eighteenth session voted in favour of resolution 1961 (XVIII), "Designation of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights".

The Byelorussian SSR considers that United Nations activities in connexion with the preparation and observance of the International Year for Human Rights should not be confined to the organization of formal ceremonies or festivities in

celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This anniversary will have real significance only if between now and 1968 the United Nations puts forth efforts and takes measures to bring about the practical application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments designed to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Universal Declaration and other international instruments adopted by the United Nations, such as the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) and the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 1904 (XVIII)), have laid a good basis for further action to ensure full respect for all human rights throughout the world. Only full application of these historic documents by all States, not in word but in deed, will give grounds for celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The main purpose of the International Year for Human Rights must therefore be the taking of measures to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the United Nations Charter. In this connexion particular attention should be given to measures to eliminate glaring violations of human rights, such as racial discrimination and its worst manifestation, the policy of apartheid, and all manifestations of colonialism and neo-colonialism, fascism, neo-fascism and militarism. So far as the elimination of colonialism is concerned, the principle should be that colonialism must be eliminated, not by 1968, but immediately, as required by General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

It is also necessary to make further efforts to ensure that working people enjoy their economic and social rights in all countries where those rights are still not properly guaranteed.

The United Nations must help to bring about the genuine elimination of inequality between persons on grounds of race, sex, colour, nationality, language or religious conviction, such as still exists in many parts of the world, and to create favourable conditions for respect for human rights in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

To this end it is desirable that by 1968 all States Members of the United Nations should ratify the conventions already concluded in the field of human rights,

such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, the ILO Convention concerning forced or compulsory labour, the ILO Convention on discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, the ILO Convention concerning equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value, and the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in education. The drafting of the following conventions should also be completed by 1968: the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the draft Convention on Freedom of Information. The United Nations should also complete consideration and preparation of the draft Declaration on the elimination of discrimination in the matter of political rights and the draft Declaration on the elimination of discrimination in relation to women.

These proposals, of course, do not exclude the taking of other measures to safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms, to the end that International Year for Human Rights may be a year of real progress in the field of human rights.

The Byelorussian SSR reserves the right to make further observations and to submit proposals on this matter in the United Nations General Assembly.